major reserved forests, their exploitation was not easy and hence the Forest authorities might attach more importance to trees on private holdings. This objection should not prevail in the interests of the welfare of the ryots. The need for the abolition of this royalty had been urged on the Government both through the Assembly and the Legislative Council. It was as a result of these representations that a committee to enquire into and report on this question was appointed. But nothing further was done. The question should therefore be taken up and disposed of early. It might be noted that in other Indian States, such as Mysore and Cochin, this royalty did not exist and that it was high time that it was abolished in Travancore also.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, your representation will be considered.

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14. Production of account books in courts.

MR. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Kayankulam*) said that it was necessary that account books of merchants produced in courts were returned promptly. According to the practice in vogue, these books were retained in courts for one or two weeks. A formal stamped petition for the return of the books and a formal order by the presiding authority were necessary for the return of the books. Formerly, it was enough if a copy of the account required be produced with the original and on the filing of an unstamped petition the books, in original, used to be returned. This arrangement was most convenient to the merchants. The need for reviving this practice was represented at the 26th and 27th sessions of the Assembly and the Government stated that the matter was under consideration. The matter should be taken up without further delay and the grievances of the traders redressed.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Krishna Pillai, this question is stil under the consideration of the High Court.

15. Defects in the administration of civil and criminal justice in Travancore and remedies therefor.

MR. C. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) said that much hardship was being experienced by the people on account of the administration of civil justice. Litigation was increasing day by day, especially with the rapid increase in the number of *chitties* and banks. While on this point the member said that there was no limit to the number of *chitties* in the State. No fresh *chitties* should be registered unless the intending foremen produced certificates as regards their position from leading men of the locality. Further, the antecedents of the foremen, especially in regard to the previous *chitties*, if any, conducted by them should be enquired into before new *chitties* were registered.